

"The quantity of ground sowed last year in wheat for the Indians was 72 acres; of which was destroyed, by their opening their fence, and letting in their horses, 16 acres. The balance, 56 acres, was harvested in due time and in good order; and, I think, had it not been wasted, would have yielded $12\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre, giving an aggregate of 700 bushels. But the crop having been much wasted while standing in the fields to cure, preparatory to stacking, by the Indians opening the fence and turning in numbers of their horses, will fall far short of the foregoing estimate.

"Hogs purchased, 24 head; killed by Indians, 2: increase 14."

None of the Indians have exhibited an inclination to undergo a practical instruction in agriculture or any of the mechanical arts, further than they can acquire by a mere casual observation. They often prove themselves not unskilful workmen in the smiths' shops, and I confidently hope to engage much of their assistance in working the next and succeeding crops.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN BEACH,
United States Indian Agent.

No. 26.

Report of his excellency Henry Dodge, Governor of Wisconsin Territory, and ex officio Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FOR THE TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN,
Mineral Point, September 22, 1840.

SIR: In accordance with the regulations of your department, I have the honor to submit my annual report, accompanied by the report of the sub-agent of the Winnebagoes. The reports of the sub-agents of the Menomonies and Chippewas have not yet been received, but will be forwarded as soon as they come to hand. I will present the condition of the several Indian tribes of this superintendency, from the best information have been able to obtain from the sub-agents, with some general remarks.

The report of the sub-agent of the Winnebagoes furnishes a full view of the situation and condition of the Indians of his sub-agency. From the existing difficulties between the Sac and Fox and the Winnebago Indians, am well convinced, from my experience and acquaintance with the habits and dispositions of these nations of Indians, that it will be difficult to place the Winnebagoes in the Neutral Country, to remain there, without a strong mounted force to protect them from the attacks of the Sac and Fox Indians. Such is their deep-rooted hostility since the Black Hawk war, that no peace can be effected between them, that will be of a lasting character. It is true, the Government can control the annuities of those nations of Indians; upon which they place great reliance at present, particularly the well-disposed part of them, who are desirous to live in a state of peace with each other. But there are among the Sac and Fox Indians, as well as the Winnebagoes, those who are reckless in feeling, and fond of war, and who cannot be controlled by their chiefs, who believe that revenge is a virtue and will shed the blood of each other when it can be done with impunity. The display of a mounted force in the Neutral Country might restrain

1839/1840

them from acts of violence on each other. It will require, however, the utmost vigilance in the movements of our troops to effect that object, and examples will have to be made of the guilty. The Winnebagoes dread the Sac and Fox Indians; and, unless they are protected by a mounted force, after the annuity payment they will return to the country east of the Mississippi, for safety from the attacks of their enemies, and the United States will again be obliged to remove them by the regular troops next season. Should the Winnebagoes return to their old haunts, they will be annoying and troublesome to the settlers who are now located north of the Wisconsin river, by depreddating on their stock and other property. If the humane and judicious policy of the Government could be carried into effect by the removal of Winnebagoes south of the Missouri river the next season, it would have the most beneficial effects on them as a people, as well as the frontier people of Wisconsin and Iowa. From the exploration made of that country, by Mr. Boilvin, under the instructions from your department, last season, it appears, from his report, that it is well adapted to the future residence of the Winnebagoes; and I can state, for your information, from my own personal observation, that the country on the Little and Big Nemahaw rivers corresponds with the description given of that country by that gentleman. I have no doubt the influence of the Winnebago traders prevented, last year, the chiefs from accompanying the exploring agent. The increased amount of the annuities of the Winnebagoes, since the treaty of 1837, renders the cash part of the annuities an object of the first importance to their traders, who exercise a controlling influence over the chiefs, by gratifying their strong propensity for drinking ardent spirits, and by other means, whose motives appear to me to be of the most *mercenary character*, in their intercourse with the Indians. There is no nation of Indians that can be more degraded than the Winnebagoes are at present; their intercourse with the whites is calculated to confirm them in their habits of vice and dissipation of the most degrading character. They have, in a great degree, lost that native dignity of character which belongs to Indians who have had but little intercourse with the whites; and I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion, that the wretched remains of this people can only be saved by the humane and protecting policy of the Government—by removing them to where their intercourse with the whites, to a certain extent, will cease to exist; by establishing farms and schools, and teaching the rising generation a knowledge of letters, and instructing them to become agriculturists and stock-raisers. The present sub-agent, Mr. Lowry, is a gentleman well qualified for the station he fills; and if the Indians of his sub-agency were removed from the influence of ardent spirits, his advice and example would have a most salutary effect in helping the condition of this unfortunate race of people.

The Chippewa Indians of this superintendency maintain their friendly relations towards our frontier inhabitants. There have been some complaints, however, of their having killed stock belonging to the people who have erected saw-mills on the Upper Wisconsin river. It is of vital importance to the people who reside on the Upper Wisconsin, as well as those settled on the St. Croix and Chippewa rivers, that the United States should comply strictly with the treaty of 1837, made at St. Peter's, with the Chippewas; it will be the means of affording peace to our most exposed frontier people on those rivers. From a letter received from the sub-agent of the Chippewa Indians, dated on the 16th of June last, (which has been

submitted to your department,) it appears that a number of Chippewa Indians, accompanied by some of their principal chiefs from Leech lake, Fond du Lac, and Lapointe, informed the sub-agent that they had been invited by the agents of the British Government to visit Lake Huron, where the annual distribution of presents was to be made to the different nations of Indians who resort to that place. The chiefs stated that the English were their friends, and had uniformly treated them with kindness, and they could see no good reason why they should not visit them. I will invite your attention to an extract of the letter referred to from the sub-agent. He states: "I do not know whether they have now some additional reasons held out to them for going; or whether it is in consequence of the course pursued by the other Indians, in regard to the distribution of the annuity last season. I am of the opinion that the latter circumstance has had great influence with the bands of Fond du Lac and Lapointe; they appear much chagrined at being excluded from the benefit of the treaty, to which they suppose themselves parties; and none of the Indians who received payment here last year intend visiting the English. Could a convention be made with the Chippewas of the Mississippi, to amend the treaty of 1837 so that the bands of Fond du Lac and Lapointe might share in its provisions equally with themselves; or, could a treaty be made with the latter bands, for the purchase of a part of their country, which they are desirous of selling, I think it would be attended with very good effects. Located as these Indians are, between our extended frontier settlements (at present so poorly protected) and another Power, whose influence is continued by means of gratuities, good policy seems to dictate that great pains should be taken to conciliate them. Experience in the Indian character goes to show that this can be accomplished most effectually by rendering their attachment to us a matter of pecuniary interest to themselves." The policy of the English Government, in distributing presents among the different nations of Indians, is, no doubt, the reason they have heretofore exercised an improper influence over the Indians of the northwest. As far as it can be done, the policy of the United States should be to counteract British influence in our territory; and, if the purchase of their country from the Fond du Lac and Lapointe bands of the Chippewa Indians will effect that desirable object, I think it should be done. As these bands receive no part of the annuities paid the Mississippi bands of Chippewas under the treaty of 1837, it is calculated to produce jealousy and distrust in their minds, and prepare them to listen to the friendly invitations of the British agents to visit Lake Huron, annually, to receive their presents. Since my last annual report, there have been war parties of the Chippewas in the Sioux country, and a small number of the Sioux have been killed by them. I have not learned that any of the Chippewas have been killed, since the massacre of the Chippewas, by the Sioux, last year. The war between those nations of Indians has continued so long, and so deep-rooted is their hostility to each other, that I am well convinced the friendly mediation of the United States could not effect a peace between them that would be lasting; and, so long as they are at war with each other, they will not feel a disposition to disturb the peace and tranquillity of our exposed frontier settlements on the St. Croix and Chippewa rivers.

The Menomonic Indians are divided in small bands, and retain their wandering habits. They raise small crops of corn; their principal reliance is, however, on their annuities; from which they derive but little advantage,

owing to the controlling influence of their traders. It would be greatly to the advantage of these Indians (and I think it the policy of the Government) to purchase their country, and remove them south of the Missouri river. I will respectfully invite your attention to an extract from my annual report of last year: "Such a measure would be greatly to the advantage of these Indians; and the title to a large and valuable tract of country bordering on the Fox river, and extending from the Wolf river to the portage of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, would be thereby extinguished. Some of these Indians are in the immediate vicinity of, and adjoining, the contemplated canal connecting the waters of the Wisconsin with those of Fox river—a work of immense importance to the whole country, as opening a direct water communication between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi river, and which, when completed, must increase the growth of that part of the territory bordering on those rivers, by bringing into market a large and fertile district of the public lands. The advantages that would result to the Indians and to the Government from the extinguishment of the Menomonic title to those lands bordering on the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, will be admitted by every one acquainted with the country, and with the situation of this people." The remnant of this nation of Indians can only be saved by their removal from the country they now occupy. Their long intercourse with the whites has made them a dissipated and degraded race of people. They are intermarried (many of them) with the Winnebagoes, with whom they are upon friendly terms; and could they be removed to the same country, and located near the Winnebagoes, I have no doubt it would be satisfactory to both nations. The Menomonic Indians are the old and inveterate enemies of the Sac and Fox Indians, and will unite with the Winnebagoes in their war parties against them, should their present difficulties continue unsettled. The Menomonies have always evinced the most friendly disposition towards the border settlers during our disturbances with the Sac and Fox Indians. On this frontier, in 1832, they volunteered their services, and promptly marched from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien, a distance of two hundred and fifty miles, to aid the United States. No Indians on our borders have stronger claims on the friendly regard and protection of the Government than the Menomonies. These Indians were invited by the British agents to attend at Lake Huron this season, to receive presents; which they declined.

The Oneida, Munsee, and Stockbridge Indians are more a civilized than a savage people, in their habits, manners, and customs. They depend on the cultivation of the soil alone for their support. I am still of the opinion, if these Indians could exchange their lands near Green Bay with the United States, for lands south of the Missouri river, their condition would be greatly benefitted. That country is much better adapted to raising corn and stock of every kind than the Green Bay country. In the settlement of this Territory bordering on Lake Michigan, these people must eventually be surrounded by the white settlements; and, unless they become citizens of the Territory, their situation must be an unpleasant one. The United States, in making an exchange of lands, would be benefitted, as the Indian lands are now in the immediate vicinity of the white settlements, and are said to be of the first quality as to fertility of soil, and are improved. These Indians are now reduced to but few in number; they have always been friendly to the United States, and deserve the protection and friendship of the Government.

In conclusion, I will briefly give your department my views as to the im-

proper influence at present exercised by the Indian traders over the Indians of this superintendency. It is a fact well known to all conversant or acquainted with our Indian relations, that the agents of the Government are obliged, to a certain extent, to be dependent on the traders for the influence they exercise over the Indians committed to their charge; and such is the influence of the traders, that the Government of the United States cannot now make a treaty with the Indians, without securing to them important pecuniary advantages. I am decidedly of the opinion that the interest of the Government, as well as the advantage of the Indians and the frontier people, requires that there should be a change in the laws of Congress regulating our trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes. The Indians of this superintendency derive but little advantage from the large amount paid them in annuities; their condition appears to me but little benefitted. Such is the influence of their traders over the chiefs and headmen of the different bands with whom they have intercourse, that they can control the cash part of their annuities for a small amount. As it is the humane policy of the Government to concentrate the Indian tribes on our western borders, and as they will probably occupy an extent of from twelve to fifteen hundred miles of country, would it not be sound policy on the part of the Government to take the trade of the Indians under its control, and dispense with the traders? I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion that it is the only course that can be pursued to enable the Government and their agents to exercise a proper control over the Indians, and, in my opinion, would have a tendency to prevent future wars between the different nations of Indians and the United States; and, I think, would keep the Indians in a state of peace with each other. It would be the means, to a certain extent, of withdrawing the Indians from the chase, make them more dependent on the Government of the United States, and advance them in the arts of civilization. Our Indian relations have assumed a very important character at present; hence the necessity, as I conceive, of some important changes in our laws regulating trade and intercourse with them.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

HENRY DODGE,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

HON. T. HARTLEY CRAWFORD,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.

No. 27.

Report of D. Lowry, Sub-agent at Prairie du Chien.

The Winnebagoes heretofore residing in the vicinity of Fort Winnebago were removed from that country, by order of the Secretary of War, in June last, and are now generally encamped on the west bank of the Mississippi river, in the neighborhood of villages occupied by the other portion of their nation. The following reason seems to have made this *halt* to the Portage bands desirable, previous to going into their proper country:

When the Indians living on the Mississippi assembled, last spring, to organize for removal, at their own *special request* permission was granted to make another crop at their old fields. The bands from the Wisconsin